

AMERICAN LANDSCAPES:

A FOURTH OF JULY TRIBUTE

On the Fourth of July, Americans celebrate both the founding of our nation and the beauty and variety of our land and its bounty.

From the cities, rivers, and fields by the Atlantic Ocean to the states bordered by the Pacific -- and on to Alaska and Hawaii -- there are scenic wonders to swell every American's heart with pride.

The celebration begins with that beloved incarnation of the American spirit: the Statue of Liberty in New York.



Statue of Liberty, New York Harbor (© Photospin).

The glamour of it all! New York!

-- Charlie Chaplin, actor

New York, New York



Filming fireworks over the Statue of Liberty (© AP Images/Ron Frehm).

New York, New York



Left, skaters at Rockefeller Center, New York City (© AP Photo/Ed Bailey). Right, the Empire State Building, in foreground, and the Chrysler Building dominate the midtown Manhattan skyline (© Ambient Images Inc. / Alamy).

Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn.

-- Elizabeth Lawrence, writer and gardener

Harrison, Maine



Fall foliage in Harrison, Maine (© AP Images/Portland Press Herald, Herb Swanson).

Waynesboro, Pennsylvania



Fall foliage in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania (© AP Images/Hagerstown Herald-Mail, Ric Dugan).

If ever the spirit of liberty should vanish from the rest of the Union, it could be restored by the generous share held by the people in this brave little State of Vermont.

-- Calvin Coolidge, U.S. President, 1923-29

Elmore, Vermont



Left, winter in Calais, Vermont. Right, Town Hall meeting, Elmore, Vermont (Both, © AP Images/Toby Talbot).

The freedom and happiness of man ... [are] the sole objects of all legitimate government.

-- Thomas Jefferson, U.S. President, 1801-1809

Washington, D.C.

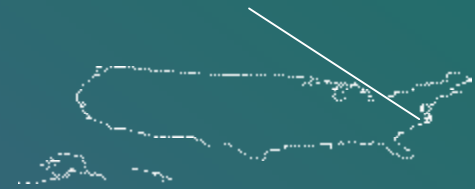


Left, baseball Opening Day ceremonies, Washington, D.C. (Photo by Tim Brown). Right, Thomas Jefferson Memorial and cherry blossoms, Washington, D.C. (© Bruce Dorrier/Superstock).

"I'm going back to dignity and grace. I'm going back to Charleston, where I belong."

-- Rhett Butler, character in "Gone With the Wind"

Charleston, South Carolina



From left to right: Colonial-era houses in Charleston (© Damir Frkovic/Masterfile); houses on East Battery, part of Charleston's Historic District (© Jon Arnold Images/Superstock); traditional handicrafts in South Carolina (National Geographic/Superstock).

There are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they have always been, one of the unique regions of the earth; remote, never wholly known.

-- Marjory Stoneman Douglas, environmentalist

Florida Everglades



A great egret in the Florida Everglades (© Peter Johannes/Ravenwood Studios).

Florida Everglades



Left, former tribal chairman Buffalo Tiger drives his airboat through the Florida Everglades near the Miccosukee Indian Reservation. Right, an alligator swims through an Everglades wildlife refuge (Both © AP Images/J. Pat Carter).

*Butcher, tool maker, stacker of wheat, player with
railroads and freight handler to the nation.*

-- Carl Sandburg, poet

Chicago, Illinois



Chicago, Illinois, at dusk (© Robert Frerck and Odyssey Productions, Inc.).

Chicago, Illinois

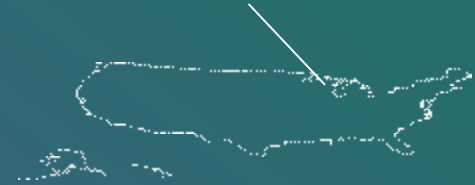


Chicago is proud of its many ethnic heritages. From left, dancers at a Polish Heritage Festival; Chinese-Americans celebrate the Autumn Moon Festival (both, © 2007 Russell Gordon and Odyssey Productions, Inc.); butchers display German delicacies; everyone is Irish on Saint Patrick's Day (both, © Robert Frerck and Odyssey Productions, Inc.).

When I find a well-drawn character in fiction or biography I generally take a warm personal interest in him, for the reason that I have known him before -- met him on the river.

-- Mark Twain, writer and wit

Itasca State Park, Minnesota



Northern Minnesota's Itasca State Park, where the Mississippi River begins its 4,107-kilometer journey to the Gulf of Mexico (Greg Ryan/Sally Beyer).

St. Louis, Missouri



Left, the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri (© SuperStock); right, Hernando de Soto Bridge over the Mississippi River connects cities in Tennessee and Arkansas (ThinkStock/SuperStock).

New Orleans, Louisiana

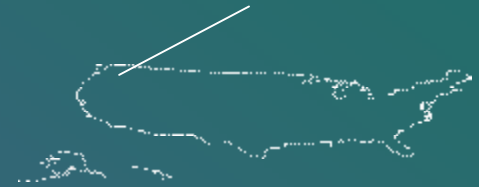


A tanker ship on the Mississippi River glides past New Orleans, Louisiana (© AP Images/David J. Phillip).

The farmers ... are the founders of human civilization.

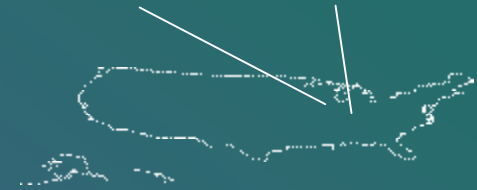
-- Daniel Webster, statesman and orator

Whitman County, Washington



Farm and buildings in Whitman County, Washington (Terry Donnelly).

Minnesota Indiana



Clockwise from upper left, soybeans in Indiana, wheat fields in Minnesota, corn plants in Minnesota (all © age fotostock/SuperStock).

Beauty in nature nourishes us and brings joy to the human spirit.

-- Lady Bird Johnson, First Lady, 1963-69



The state flower of Texas, the bluebonnet, blooms under an oak with another wildflower, the paintbrush (© Adam Jones/Danita Delimont); right, elk graze in Yellowstone National Park (© AP Images/ Kevork Djansezian).

Arizona



Sunset over the Grand Canyon (Photo by Tim Brown).

Navajo Nation



Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, Navajo Nation, which straddles parts of Arizona and Utah. (Photo by Tim Brown).

New Mexico, Arizona, Utah



Top left, adobe house in New Mexico (Stockxpert); above left, rodeo competition in Arizona (© David H. Wells and Odyssey Productions, Inc.); center, Apache father and son in Arizona (© Jose Galvez/Photo Edit); right, barn in Capitol Reef National Park, Utah (Stockxpert).

California dreamin' ...

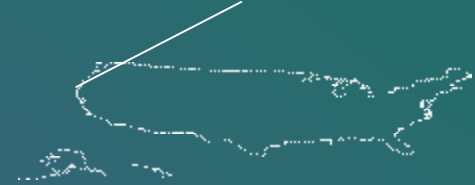
-- Mamas and the Papas, '60s vocal group

San Francisco, California



The Golden Gate Bridge frames the San Francisco, California, skyline (Comstock).

San Francisco, California



Clockwise from above, holiday banners in San Francisco's Chinatown (© AP Images/Eric Risberg); beach near San Diego (© AP Images/Lenny Ignelzi); grapevines in Napa Valley (© 2007 Michael Melford).

Beauty is not caused. It is.

-- Emily Dickinson, poet

Oahu, Hawaii



Surfing off Oahu, Hawaii (Mark Johnson/Mira.com).

Portage Lake, Alaska



Northern Lights over Portage Lake and Chugach Mountains, Alaska (Alaska Stock Images).





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